

Norwegian Elkhound Notes 8th March 2026

BIS Crufts has just finished as I start these notes. We all dream of our own breed winning but oh my word, who could deny that stunningly beautiful Clumber? A breed I have always admired and a UK dog to boot with such a proud owner, devoted to his breed for 50 years. That really is the high point of a lifetime of devotion.

I watched mainly online this year so was able to go back and watch my favourite event, Freestyle Heelwork to Music and see the lovely little Trip Hazard win and then come third in the International Final. Do watch if you missed it. It was on Thursday. Such a delightful little dog and incredible trainer.

We can though, still be proud of our own in the Group: winning BOB for the third year running; Maggie Mott and Sally Simmonds' Ch/Am Ch Kamgaard Klementina (Imp USA) who did the breed proud.

Last year under the same judge, Moa Persson, Klemmie made the cut in the Group. Her luck wasn't in this time but she still gave a great display thanks to Sally's expert handling.

Maggie and Sally had a tough day no thanks to the loss of the favoured pink jacket and a very special brooch but with thanks to Nicola Croxford who loaned a very similar jacket. Amazingly when leaving the NEC by a route different to the one planned, Maggie spotted a garment bag hanging on a railing which contained—yes, the missing jacket with brooch still attached. They have both now believed what I warned them about; that floor is a killer on your legs. I hope both are now feeling a bit better. You walk miles at Crufts on a most unforgiving surface.

DCC and Best Veteran in breed went to the Stephensons with Norvin Marvel of Brawdor, just 2 months into the Veteran Class and they also took the Res CC with another Kamgaard dog, this time Kamgaard Kyffin at Brawdor who has been winning well as a puppy. Res Bitch CC winner was Mel Hennesey's Bowerhinton Bombette VW. Two veterans in the top line up. This breed really doesn't show its age. At the other end of the age range, Best Puppy was Ravenheim Blue Mystique of Llassah owned by delighted Karen and Alan Gold and sired by their own male.

Other class winners included Ch Graythor at The Venetian with Llassah; Laakso Karo at Torloisk; Kamgaard Kloudberry Jam for Conrick; Ch Graythor Augustus at Rothenborg; Cnocanoir Orr of Osteire; Laakso Kaunis at Akritiko and Laakso Julaften. Well done all.

Discover Dogs was well supported and Jill Cowper would like me to give her sincere thanks to all those volunteers who helped to man the stall. She hopes to see them all next year; they did a marvellous job and she said "Katherine and Mel had the opportunity of promoting our breed showcase on the Crufts stand which I believe was extremely successful. I got my application in early so we were allowed the last space. Another opportunity to promote our lovely breed and it was very successful. "Jill would like to also thank Sarah Middleton for handling her dogs so well. Next Year the Discover Dogs stand will be organised by Neal Cuss. Time for Jill to step back a bit and stop doing so much after last year's events.

I hope everyone got home safely.

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